

Section 2: Workforce Investment Act

9/04/09

Contacts List:

Questions related to Workforce Investment Act (WIA) initiatives at the local level are best answered by local workforce development board administrators. For a list of those individuals by county, go to www.nccommerce.com/workforce, click on JobLink Centers and select "All Workforce Development Boards."

For information related to state-level activities contact the following individuals at the Division of Workforce Development (DWD):

Roger Shackleford, Executive Director
919-329-5255
Beth Lucas, Director, Policy and Governance
919-329-5233
Danny Giddens, Director, Grants Management
919-329-5571

Major WIA/ARRA areas:

WIA can best be divided into the major funding categories: adult, youth and dislocated workers. WIA/ARRA funds were awarded by the US Department of Labor, utilizing the basic requirements of traditional WIA funding.

\$79,827,136 was made available to the state in March 2009. Of this amount, \$56,748,247 was distributed to NC's 24 workforce development boards in a formula basis as required by law. Within each funding stream, the dollars were budgeted as follows:

\$ 8,786,590	Training and related services to adult citizens
\$21,310,093	Services to disadvantaged youth delivered through a federally mandated Summer Youth Employment Program (new program requirement of ARRA). Over 6,000 youth are currently enrolled in work and job readiness activities around the state.
<u>\$26,651,564</u>	Employment, training, and support services to dislocated workers
\$56,748,247	Total WIA/ARRA funds distributed to local workforce development boards

WIA/ARRA funds that are not required to be distributed to local boards are held at the state level to support strategic investments that build North Carolina's workforce delivery system for youth, adults and dislocated workers. Two projects were approved by the Office of Economic Recovery and Investment and are in progress:

- A. To support our state's Community College Systems' ability and capacity to train and retrain our state's new and existing workforce, DWD partnered with the Community College system to plan and implement the Governor's JobsNOW 12 in 6 Initiative. With an investment of **\$13,450,000**, local community colleges, in partnership with the 24 local Workforce Development Boards, are creating short-term training opportunities for citizens within targeted occupations. These short-term training options, coupled with work readiness assessment and coaching, will provide more North Carolina citizens with the skills for good jobs and a career pathway for continued growth. The funding contribution is intended to impact all 58 community colleges. The initiative is set to start in September 2009.
- B. Due to the potential for substantial worker layoffs in the banking/financial services industry in the Charlotte region, Governor Perdue charged workforce development partners at the state and local level to develop a proactive plan to assist workers impacted by layoffs and to assist the communities and existing businesses in the region to remain viable and competitive. The outcome of the planning was the Charlotte Workforce Recovery Project. **\$803,592** in ARRA/WIA funds has been disbursed to support the components of this plan. These components include entrepreneurship training, expanded service access in faith based/community based and public settings, conversion of curriculums at UNC-Charlotte to short-term offerings, the implementation of a job retention/layoff aversion model to assist small and medium size companies in their efforts to remain competitive, and the hiring of a project coordinator. These components are evolving toward full implementation. A class of 32 has already completed the initial entrepreneurship training. The project coordinator has been hired and is actively working to align the work activities. The Job Retention project, a partnership between the Department of Commerce and Small Business and Technology Development Center is at the beginning implementation stage.

In early July 2009 the Office of Economic Recovery and Investment gave DWD approval to allot **\$5,240,000.00** of ARRA/WIA funds to support the implementation of six (6) projects that reflected statewide priorities and federal expectations. Still in the developmental stage, these projects are:

- **Outreach Project to Unemployed Adults and Dislocated Workers:** Work in this project will be carried out by the NC Agency for Public Telecommunications Office and a service provider to be determined in a procurement process. **\$990,000.**
- **BRAC i3D Project:** This project is an expansion of the workforce and economic development efforts by the BRAC Regional Task in response to the military base realignment in the region surrounding Ft. Bragg. **\$800,000.**
- **Veterans Initiative:** This project also supports a military area to be impacted by base realignments. It will support the training and retraining needs in the area surrounding Camp Lejeune and the Marine Corp Air Station at Cherry Point. Veterans and military spouses will be targeting for training and retraining in service industries. This project is a partnership between the Military Growth task force and the Eastern North Carolina Workforce Development Board. **\$900,000.**

- **Prisoner Reentry Project:** The North Carolina Department of Corrections will use ARRA/WIA funding to expand its Prisoner Reentry Project, which currently serves only four North Carolina counties. Funding will allow this project to provide workforce development and related transition assistance to offenders in ten (10) additional counties. **\$1,000,000.**
- **Workforce Development at Youth Development Centers:** The Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention will use ARRA/WIA funds to implement an education and employment project within the eight (8) Youth development Centers that it operates around the state. The project will integrate workforce training into the range of rehabilitative services provided to youth. **\$950,000.**
- **Rural Community Mobilization Project:** The NC Rural Economic Development Center will use ARRA/WIA funds to provide grants to local rural partnerships along with technical assistance to establish public and non-profit partnerships to implement steps to address job loss in the communities and the assistance needed by the unemployed and underemployed. **\$700,000.**

Of the **\$79,827,136** (total WIA/ARRA awarded to NC) **\$77,851,839** has been encumbered as of 7/31/09. Discussions are taking place with regard to the use of the remaining **\$1,985,297.**

DWD is taking the lead in pulling partners together to pursue two of the ARRA opportunities in the energy sector competitive grant solicitation from the US DOL. They will be pursuing the grants that target the development of a sector approach to employment and training in the green industry (\$2-6 million.) They are also working closely with the Employment Security Commission to pursue a grant around Labor Market Information (\$750,000-1.2 million) in the energy industry.

Substantiating Data:

For the most up to date information on ARRA participation, go to www.ncwia and click on ARRA summaries.

(If printing, insert Guidebook Section 2 attachment here)